

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05

OES-03 HEW-02 AGR-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-10 SAM-01

SNM-02 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 NASA-01 /122 W

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R 241023Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0005

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY BONN BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MANDALAY BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL BY POUCH

AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 2086

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA 27

1. NE WIN SKIPS MARTYR DAY CELEMONIES (LOU)

ON THE JULY 19 ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF AUNG SAN,

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TRADITIONAL WREATH WAS LAYED AT MARTYR'S MASOLEUM BY SECRETARY OF

COUNCIL OF STATE GENERAL SAN YU ACCOMPANIED BY PRIME MINISTER SEIN WIN, THE CABINET, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE VARIOUS COUNCILS, TOP PARTY CADRE AND AUNG SAN'S WIDOW. NOTABLE BY HIS ABSENCE WAS PRESIDENT NE WIN DESPITE PRESS PLAY CITING HIM AS AUNG SAN'S SPIRITUAL SUCCESSOR. RUMORS THAT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MIGHT HOLD THEIR OWN CEREMONIES AT U THANT'S GRAVE PROVED UNFOUNDED AS DID STORIES OF A TRIP ABROAD BY NE WIN; THE DAY PASSED PEACEFULLY.

COMMENT: POPULAR MYTH HOLDS THAT NE WIN IS NEVER IN BURMA ON JULY 19. REVIEW OF OUR RECORDS BACK TO 1969 INDICATES HE WAS ABROAD IN 1974, 1972 AND 1969 BUT PRESENT IN BURMA ON THE OTHER OCCASIONS. IN FACT, HE LAID THE WREATH IN 1968, 1970 AND 1971. HE MAY HAVE ENDED THIS PRACTICE AFTER THE ALLEGED BOMB PLOT TO ASSASSINATE HIM DURING THE CEREMONY WAS UNCOVERED EARLY IN 1972. OTHERS SPECULATE, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRESIDENT FINDS IT UNSEEMLY TO HOLD HIS FORMER COMRADE-IN-ARMS IN SUCH REVERENCE.

## 2. PRISON TERMS FOR LABOR DEMONSTRATORS (LOU)

SPECIAL COURTS HAVE CONVICTED 28 WORKERS FOR THEIR PART IN LAST JUNE'S STRIKE AT THE BURMA PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY. SENTENCES RANGED FROM 16 TO 10 YEARS.

COMMENT: THESE ARE SEVERE SENTENCES BY ANY STANDARD AND ESPECIALLY SEVERE FOR A NON-VIOLENT STRIKE. THE SENTENCES ARE DESIGNED TO WARN ANY LABORERS WHO MAY CONTEMPLATE STRIKING AGAINST THE GUB AND EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATES A GROUP OF POTENTIAL LABOR LEADERS AND/OR AGITATORS. THE SENTENCES WERE MUCH HARSHER THAN THOSE HANDED DOWN AGAINST STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE JUNE DISTURBANCES. THE LONGEST PRISON TERMS GIVEN STUDENTS - AND THESE WERE LARGELY FOR TWO-TIME LOSERS, I.E., THOSE WHO HAD BEEN CONVICTED AND LATER PARDONED FOR THEIR PART IN THE DECEMBER 1974 DEMONSTRATIONS - WERE SEVEN YEARS. THIS ACTION LENDS WEIGHT TO THE THEORY THAT THE GUB IS PREPARED TO TAKE MUCH STERNER MEASURES AGAINST WORKERS THAN AGAINST STUDENTS PERHAPS BECAUSE THE REGIME BELIEVES LABOR UNREST POSES A GREATER THREAT TO ITS STABILITY THAN ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS BY STUDENTS. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT THOSE IMPRISONED WILL NOT ACTUALLY SERVE THEIR FULL TIME AND WILL EVENTUALLY BE PARDONED.

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## 3. POPULATION VS PRODUCTION (UNCLAS)

PRESIDENT NE WIN'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AT THE RECENT BSPP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING (WEEK 23) OF BURMA'S NEED TO "BALANCE POPULATION AND PRODUCTION" HAS PERHAPS SIGNED A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE BY THE GUB TOWARD POPULATION PLANNING. HIS PRONOUNCEMENT APPARENTLY GAVE THE GREEN LIGHT TO GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES TO BEGIN A TENTATIVE EFFORT AT SETTING PRIORITIES AND GOALS IN THIS AREA. POPULATION

HAS MOVED FROM BEING A NON-SUBJECT TO A TOPIC OF INTEREST AND THE HEALTH MINISTER HAS NOW INSTRUCTED HIS STAFF TO DEVELOP SOME CONCRETE PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION. ALL OF THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, A COMPLETE RETREAT FROM TRADITIONAL BURMESE POSITIONS. BUDDHISM OPPOSES ABORTION AND VASECTOMY AS CONTRARY TO RESPECT FOR LIFE AND FOR FAMILY STRUCTURE. BURMESE NEUTRALISM WILL MAKE THEM CAUTIOUS ABOUT BI-LATERAL POPULATION ASSISTANCE. ALSO, THE APPARENT WILLINGNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM DOES NOT IMPLY ACCURATE PLANNING, EFFICIENCY OF ADMINISTRATION, OR HASTE IN ATTACKING THE PROBLEM. IT SEEMS LIKELY THE "BURMESE ROAD TO POPULATION PLANNING" WILL BE LONG AND WINDING.

4. RICE EXPORTS (LOU)

ACCORDING TO UNOFFICIAL FIGURES GATHERED BY THE EMBASSY, BURMA HAS COMMITTED 417,200 LONG TONS OF RICE FOR EXPORT THIS YEAR, AND OF THIS AMOUNT 248,650 TONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SHIPPED. INCLUDED IN THE AMOUNT SHIPPED IS A SALE OF 20,000 TONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR DISTRIBUTION IN VIETNAM. IF THE FIGURES ARE CORRECT AND IF BURMA CAN MEET ALL COMMITMENTS, RICE EXPORTS THIS YEAR WILL BE ABOUT DOUBLE THOSE OF LAST YEAR, BUT STILL BELOW THE 1974-75 EXPORT TARGET FIGURE OF 600,000 TONS.

5. NORTH KOREAN SPECIAL ENVOY (UNCLAS)

DPRK POLITBURO MEMBER YANG HYONG SOB, TERMED A "SPECIAL ENVOY" OF KIM IL SUNG, HEADED A THREE-MAN DELEGATION WHICH ARRIVED IN RANGOON JULY 21 FOR A FIVE DAY VISIT. NORTH KOREANS WERE MET AT AIRPORT BY FAIRLY HIGH LEVEL WELCOMING COMMITTEE INCLUDING MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OF STATE, BSPP CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND TWO CABINET MINISTERS (FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INDUSTRY 2); THUS FAR THEY HAVE CALLED ON GENERAL SAN YU AND PRIMIN SEIN WIN BUT NOT THE PRESIDENT. NO REASON FOR VISIT HAS BEEN GIVEN BUT MFA SOURCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOTES THAT NORTH KOREANS GENERALLY SEND A DELEGATION TO BURMA EACH YEAR BEFORE UNGA CONVENES TO OUTLINE THEIR POSITION.

COMMENT: DPRK FORAY WILL NO DOUBT PROMPT A COMPARABLE MISSION FROM ROK. GUB, AS USUAL, WILL LISTEN POLITELY TO BOTH AND SIDE WITH NEITHER.

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SNM-02 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 NASA-01 /122 W

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R 241023Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0006

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY BONN BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

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AMEMBASSY SEOUL BY POUCH

AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

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6. DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENTS (UNCLAS)

CONTINUING THE SHAKE-UP OF THE BURMESE FOREIGN SERVICE, GUB HAS ANNOUNCED THAT EX-LT. COL. MYO MYINT, BSPP CENTRAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBER, WILL BE BURMA'S ENVOY TO MOSCOW WHILE DR. BA MAUNG, MEMBER OF THE SHAN STATE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL WILL BECOME AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

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7. NARCOTICS. NORTHERN SHAN STATE REFINERY SEIZED (UNCLAS)

LOCAL PRESS COMMENTING ON GUB OPERATIONS AGAINST OPIUM REFINERIES, FOR THE FIRST TIME REPORTED THAT IN MID-JUNE THE BURMA ARMY RAIDED A REFINERY LOCATED NEAR HO PON, APPROXIMATELY 40 MILES NORTHEAST OF LASHIO, CONFISCATING EQUIPMENT AND CHEMICALS AND ARRESTING AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF PEOPLE FOUND AT THE SITE. NO OTHER DETAILS WERE REVEALED.

8. NARCOTICS: MONKS CAUGHT WITH OPIUM (UNCLAS)

NEWSPAPERS REPORT RANGOON ARMY AND POLICE INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS JULY 21 ARRESTED TWO MONKS ARRIVING FROM MANDALAY AT THE TRAIN STATION. THE MONKS WERE CARRYING IN THEIR BELONGINGS OVER 16 KILOGRAMS OF RAW OPIUM. A SEARCH OF THEIR LODGING PLACE TURNED UP SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF OTHER DRUGS AND PARAPHENALIA INCLUDING THREE PACKETS OF "HLAWGE" OPIUM (SCRAPINGS OF OPIUM PIPES AND QUITE POWERFUL), 3,000 BOTTLES OF MEDICINES, 50 SYRINGES, AND 20 NEEDLES. AN ADDITIONAL KILO AND WZHALF OF OPIUM WAS SEIZED IN MANDALAY FOLLOWING INTERROGATION OF THE MONKS.

COMMENT: THIS SEIZURE HOLDS SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE ON SEVERAL ACCOUNTS, LOCAL INTELLIGENCE ON TRAFFICKING INTERNALLY PROVED ITSELF IN THIS CASE, A MECHANISM FOR GETTING DRUGS INTO THE VAST RANGOON MARKET WAS REVEALED AND, THE DRUGS SEIZED WERE MOSTLY FROM BURMA PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES (BPI), EVIDENCE THAT EMPLOYEES ARE SMUGGLING DANGEROUS DRUGS OUT OF THE FACTORY. FINALLY, THE QUANTITIES OF DRUGS, SYRINGES, ETC., UNDERSCORE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ADDICTION PROBLEM IN RANGOON.

9. NARCOTICS: RAIDS IN TACHILEK (UNCLAS)

ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, AN ANTI-VICE CAMPAIGN WAS CONDUCTED IN TACHILEK EARLIER IN JULY DURING WHICH LARGE QUANTITIES OF OPIUM AND HEROIN WERE SEIZED FROM SEVERAL DEALERS. SPECIFICS WERE NOT MADE AVAILABLE.

COMMENT: IT IS LIKELY THAT ONLY LOW-LEVEL PUSHERS WERE HIT IN THE RAID. MORE WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE OF IT IF ONE OR MORE OF THE "KINGPINS" HAD BEEN ARRESTED.

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10. BUDDHIST LENT BEGINS (UNCLAS)

THE JULY 22 WASO FULL MOON FESTIVAL, MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE THREE-MONTH BUDDHIST LENT. THOUSANDS OF BUDDHIST FAITHFUL CELEBRATED THE HOLIDAY BY CROWDING INTO PAGODAS, MONASTERIES AND MEDITATION CENTERS TO PERFORM MERITORIOUS ACTS. EDITORIALS, LETTERS AND COLUMNS IN ENGLISH AND BURMESE-LANGUAGE NOTED THE OCCASION WITH THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY STRESSING THE LINK BETWEEN BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIALISM. LAMENTING THE CURRENT SAD STATE OF

AFFAIRS IN BURMA, IT ASSERTED "OUR SORE NEED TODAY IS TO WHITTLE DOWN 'T' AND 'MY' WHICH HAVE UNFORTUNATELY GROWN TO ALMOST UN-MANAGEABLE AND DISASTEROUS PROPORTIONS AND TO BRING COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY UP OVER THE UNSOCIALISTIC 'T' AND 'MY'."

12. APOLLO-SOYUZ LINKUP RECEIVES HIGH COVERAGE (UNCLAS)

BURMESE MEDIA EXTENSIVELY COVERED THE AMERICAN AND RUSSIAN LIFT-OFFS AND LINKUP IN SPACE. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL USIS FEATURES AND PHOTOS AND DIAGRAMS WERE USED, NEWSPAPERS TENDED TO CARRY A HIGH PROPORTION OF TASS AND APN NEWS FROM THE DAY-BY-DAY EVENTS FOLLOWED BY AFP AND A RELATIVELY SMALL PROPORTION OF MATERIAL FROM AP AND UPI. BURMESE MEDIA OFFICIALS REPORT THAT THE TASS CORRESPONDENT AND THE SOVIET EMBASSY PRESS SECTION MADE A MAJOR EFFORT TO ASSURE HEAVY USAGE OF THEIR MATERIALS, VISITING NAB AND NEWSPAPER OFFICIALS ON A DAILY BASIS.

13. RESTORATION OF PAGAN (UNCLAS)

GUB HAS DRAWN UP TWO-YEAR PLAN FOR RESTORING 14 OF THE PAGODAS AT PAGAN WHICH WERE MOST SEVERELY DAMAGED DURING THE RECENT EARTH-QUAKE. COST OF THE PROJECT IS ESTIMATED AT K114 (18) MILLION, AND GUB APPEALING TO POPULATION FOR DONATIONS AND ASSISTANCE. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR DONATED K5,000 (\$800) ON BEHALF OF GOJ FOR RESTORATION OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS AT PAGAN, AND WE EXPECT FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS.  
HOWARTH

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## Message Attributes

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